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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/695,193

Examiner

Oanh Duong

Applicant(s)

PULITO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

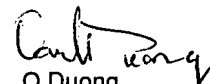
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


O. Duong
Primary Examiner
August 6, 2007

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

1. Examiner suggested applicant to amend claims as shown in Examiner's amendment below in order to place application in condition for allowance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Dagg (Registration No. 37,809) on August 2, 2007.

The claims of the invention are amended as follows:

14. (Currently amended) A system embedded in a computer-readable storage medium, when executed by one or more processors, for ~~enable~~ conferencing over a computer network, the system comprising:

[[A.]] a plurality of client processes operatively coupled to the computer network and configured to establish a point-to-point communication connection with an other process operatively coupled to the computer network, each of the plurality of client processes configured to receive ~~at least one~~ first and second active streams of audio data, first and second client processes of the plurality of client processes are configured to transmit [[an]] the first and second active streams of audio data; and

[[B.]] a server process operatively coupled to the computer network and configured to identify [[a]] the first client process of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting [[an]] the first active audio stream from a first single audio source and to retransmit the first active audio stream of the first identified client process to others of the plurality of client processes in unmixed form, the server process further configured to identify [[a]] the second client process of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting [[an]] the second active audio stream from a second single audio source and to simultaneously retransmit the first and second active audio streams of the first and second audio sources associated with the identified first and second client processes, respectively, to the others of the plurality of client processes in unmixed form,

wherein the first and second active audio streams comprise a plurality of audio data packets, each of the audio data packets having a packet header including a source identifier and sequence number associated with each of the audio data packets, and wherein the server process is further configured to modify ~~one of the~~ source identifier and sequence number of each of the packet headers in the first and second active streams of audio packets,

wherein the plurality of client processes do not support multipoint conferences.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes are configured to receive the first and second active audio streams in

unmixed form from the server process and to mix the first and second active audio streams into a form suitable for presentation.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the server process is further configured to retransmit the modified packets of the first and second active streams of audio packets to the others of the plurality of client processes.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein ~~selected~~ one of the plurality of client processes are configured to transmit an active stream of video data.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the server process is further configured to identify the one of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting an the active video stream and to retransmit the active video stream of the one identified client process to the others of the plurality of client processes.

20. (Currently amended) In a server process operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of client processes configured to establish a point-to-point communication connection with an other process operatively coupled to the computer network, each of the plurality of client processes configured to receive at least one active stream of audio data, ~~selected of~~ a first and second client processes of the plurality of client processes are configured to transmit ~~[[an]]~~ a first and second active

streams of audio data, a method for ~~enabling~~ conferencing over [[a]] the computer network comprising:

[[(A)]] identifying [[a]] the first client process of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting [[an]] the first active audio stream from a first single audio source;

[[(B)]] retransmitting the first active audio stream of the first identified client process to others of the plurality of client processes in unmixed form,

[[(C)]] identifying [[a]] the second client process of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting [[an]] the second active audio stream from a second single audio source, and

[[(D)]] retransmitting the first and second active audio streams of the first and second audio sources associated with the identified first and second client processes, respectively, to the others of the plurality of client processes in unmixed form,

wherein the first and second active audio streams comprise a plurality of data packets, each of the data packets having a packet header including a source identifier and sequence number associated with the each of the packets, and wherein the server process is further configured to modify ~~one of~~ the source identifier and sequence number of each of the packet headers in the first and second active streams of audio packets when the plurality of client processes do not support multipoint conferences.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the others of plurality of client processes are configured to receive the first and second active audio streams

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in unmixed form from the server process and to mix the first and second active audio streams into a form suitable for presentation.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the packet header further includes a time stamp, and further comprising:[[(B1)]] modifying the time stamp, of the packet headers in the first and second active stream of audio packets.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising:
[[(Bla)]] retransmitting the modified packets of the first and second active streams of audio packets to the others of the plurality of client processes.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein ~~selected~~ one of the plurality of client processes are configured to transmit an active stream of video data.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
[[(E)]] identify the one of the ~~selected~~ plurality of client processes which is transmitting
[[an]] the active video stream.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising:
[[(F)]] transmitting the active video stream of the one identified client process to others of the plurality of client processes.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-26 are allowed over prior art of record.
4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's replies make evident the reasons for allowance, satisfying the "record as a whole" as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104(e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on May 15, 2007 with respect to the amended claim limitations and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment point out the reasons claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see M.P.E.P 1302.14).
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oanh Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-3983. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 9:30PM - 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

O. Duong
Primary Examiner
August 6, 2007